(2) Fluorescent Tubes.
(3) Rayon Tyres, Yard, Cord Fabric.
(4) Tractors.
(5) Tyres and tubes of scooters (including scooter rickshaw tyres and auto rickshaw tyres).
(6) Tyres and tubes of Cars, Jeeps, Vans, Automobile of any other category whatsoever, Tractors and tractor trollies but excluding tyres and tubes for Buses and Trucks.

नेशनल डेरी डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड द्वारा खाद्य तेलों को अधिक मूल्यों पर बेचा जाना

*74. **सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा:**
श्री बलराम सिंह यादव:

क्या **कृषि** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 11 जुलाई, 1990 के "द हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स" में "सेन्टर टु इम्पोर्ट 100 एम०टी० एडीबल आयल" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने नेशनल डेरी डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड को निर्देश दिया है कि वह नारियल तेल 22 रुपये से 28 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम की दर से और सरसों का तेल 17 रुपये से 23 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम की दर से स्वदेशी बाजार में बेचे;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि नेशनल डेरी डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड इन तेलों को दिल्ली और कलकत्ता में सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित मूल्य से अधिक मूल्य पर बेच रहा है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है और खाद्य तेलों के मूल्यों में ऐसी वृद्धि किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नितिश कुमार): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, नहीं। राष्ट्रीय डेरी विकास बोर्ड नारियल के तेल का कारोबार नहीं करता। बाजार हस्तक्षेप कार्य से संबंधित नीति के अंतर्गत, राष्ट्रीय डेरी विकास बोर्ड को खाद्य तेलों की खरीद, भण्डारण और बिक्री इस तरीके से करनी है कि तेल वर्ष 1989-90 के लिए मूंगफली के तेल के लिए बम्बई और सरसों के तेल के लिए दिल्ली के संकेत बाजारों में थोक मूल्य मुख्यतया 22,000 से 28,000 रुपए प्रति मीटरी टन और 17,000 से 23,000 रुपये प्रति मीटरी टन के बीच रखे जा सकें।

(ग) दिल्ली में, इस समय राष्ट्रीय डेरी विकास बोर्ड द्वारा न तो मूंगफली और न ही सरसों का तेल बड़ी मात्रा में बेचा जा रहा है। इस समय दिल्ली में परिष्कृत मूंगफली का तेल और परिष्कृत सरसों का तेल, "धारा" के एक लीटर के पैक में क्रमशः 31.50 रुपए और 24.50 रुपये के हिसाब से बेचा जा रहा है।

कलकत्ता में, बड़ी मात्रा में सरसों के तेल की बिक्री 24,500/- रुपए प्रति मीटरी टन की दर से की जा रही है।

(घ) ब्यौरा उत्तर के भाग (ग) में दिया गया है। राष्ट्रीय डेरी विकास बोर्ड कलकत्ता में सरसों के तेल की बिक्री बड़ी मात्रा में प्रचलित बाजार दर पर कर रहा है जो बाजार हस्तक्षेप कार्यों के अन्तर्गत इसकी नीति का एक हिस्सा है।

Increased in the prices of essential commodities

*75. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an abnormal increase in the prices of all essential commodities during the last six months;

(b) if so, what was the progressive monthly price index for essential commodities during the last six months;

(c) the figures for the corresponding periods during the last two years, year wise;

(d) whether any concrete steps have been taken in the recent weeks to bring down the prices of essential commodities; and

(e) if so, whether any results have been achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) There has not been abnormal increase in prices of all essential commodities during the last six months ending 21.7.1990 (between weeks

ending 20.1.1990 and 21.7.1990). The Wholesale Price Index of rice was higher by 8.2% as compared to an increase of 9.0% and 10.2% in the corresponding periods in 1989 and 1988 respectively; the index of sugar, tea, *jowar,* chillies, black pepper, *atta, maida* have declined, while kerosene and coke remained steady during this period. There has, however, been a significant rise in the case of oilseeds edible oils, gram and *arhar* among pulses, and vegetables.

(b) A statement showing the month end Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of selected essential commodities from January, 1990 to June, 1990 and week-ending 21.7.1990 given in Annexure. [*see* Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 14].

(c) A statement for corresponding periods in 1989 and 1988 is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 15].

(d) and (e) A statement indicating recent steps taken is enclosed (*See* below). As a result of these measures, prices of rice and wheat have remained at reasonable levels, prices of sugar have declined, manufacturers of cement have reduced the prices of cement from their earlier high levels; tea prices have shown tendency of softening. The run-away increase in prices of edible oils have been restrained.

Statement

Concrete steps taken to bring down prices

Wheat and Rice

There has been a highest ever procurement of rice (117.50 lakh tonnes as on 3.8.90) and of wheat (110.70 lakh tonnes as on 3.8.90). Adequate releases through Public Distribution System (around 14.87 and 15.18 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat in June and July, 1990 respectively) had been made to check price rise.

Sugar

Current year's production of 109 lakh tonnes of sugar is a record. The monthly releases of free sale sugar of 6 lakh tonnes in addition to levy sugar of 3.32 lakh tonnes is being made. The free sale quota has been increased after March, 1990 to check open market prices.

Tea

Ministry of Commerce has asked the producers of tea to make available about 10 million kgs of tea for being sold in economy packs at retail outlets.

Cement

A notification under the Essential Commodities Act doing away with the need of retail licensing for cement distribution has been issued on 7.8.1990.

The Department of Industrial Development had a dialogue with the cement industry on 11.5.1990 in which prices for different ranges were agreed.

Kerosene

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had initiated a scheme of supply of furfural doped kerosene in the market. Facilities at 6 places have been commissioned and such facility at 10 other places is under commissioning.

Salt

The Salt Commissioner took a meeting with the salt manufacturers of Gujarat on 23rd July, 1990 at Jamnagar. In the meeting the manufacturers have agreed not to increase the ex-factory price of salt.

Edible Oil

(i) The stock limits of edible oils with wholesalers and retailers have been reduced with effect from 26.4.1990.

(ii) Blending of conventional oil (mustard, groundnut etc.) with one non-conventional refined oil (soyabean, cottonseed, safflower etc.) has been permitted.

(iii) The Reserve Bank of India has increased minimum margin for bank advances for trade in oilseeds, edible oils and *vanaspati.*

(iv) Stock limits of edible oils and *vanaspati* have been reduced by 50% in case of producers w.e.f. 2.7.1990.

(v) Use of expeller mustard oil in the

manufacture of vanaspati has been withdrawn from 6.7.1990.

(vi) The supplies of imported edible oils through Public Distribution System have been stepped up from 35,200 tonnes in March, 1990 to 70,000 tonnes in July, 1990. National Dairy Development Board has also been authorised to undertake judicious market intervention with the imported oil and domestic oil procured by them.

Supply of essential items at fixed prices throughout the country

*76. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand that the Union Government should take the responsibility for supplying to the people at fixed prices within the reach of the common man 14 articles of daily consumption throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have any such scheme under its consideration; and

(c) if not, whether there is any alternative scheme to mitigate the hard-ship of the people from the unbridled price rise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government is already supplying key essential commodities like wheat, rice, levy sugar, kerosene, imported edible oils and soft coke to the State/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System

The Central Government is incurring a huge subsidy of over Rs. 2000 crores per annum for supply of rice and wheat through PDS. Substantial relief is provided to consumers through supply of the other items also.

Due to financial and administrative constraints, it is not feasible to include more items under PDS at the National level. States and UTs have been advised from time to time to consider inclusion of some items of mass consumption relevant to their area for distribution if necessary by using the PDS outlets.

Laws for Welfare of Beedi Workers

*77. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently convened a meeting to review the problems of beedi workers and enforcement of laws for their welfare; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) A meeting was held on the 3rd July, 1990 under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister to discuss and review various issues concerning beedi workers. The meeting was attended by the representatives of employers, employees and the State Governments. Apart from certain suggestions for further examination of existing laws concerning Beedi workers, the other salient points that emerged for further action were as follows:—

(1) State Governments to undertake a Special drive to cover all identified beedi workers in their States through local bodies such as Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities, Municipalities, etc., and issue identity cards,

(2) Tripartite Committees to be constituted by State Governments to standardise the quantity of raw material to be issued to beedi workers for making a given number of beedis of different sizes;